

**LLANFYLLIN  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE**

**YEAR 1946.**



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CARTREF,

LLANFAIR CAEREINION.

*24th July, 1947.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Llanfyllin Rural  
District Council.*

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report, dealing with Vital Statistics, the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your district, for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

Vital Statistics do not show much alteration when compared with those of the preceeding year, although there appears to be a very definite reduction in the Birth Rate.

An extensive epidemic of measles during the year caused a very sharp increase in the number of cases of infectious diseases notified.

From my own observation, the epidemic passed leaving no ill effects.

General Nutrition (especially amongst children) and health appears to have been well maintained during the year.

Some progress is now being made in the erection of much needed houses. Large numbers are urgently required, and plans for these are, in most cases, complete.

In some isolated localities in the area the erection of houses is being held up owing to the lack of labour, which, presumably, will become available when areas more favourably placed, have completed their programme of house building.

And in the meantime, the questions of extension of public water supplies and those of sewage disposal require solution.

Again I take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for all assistance and advice so readily afforded during the year.

I have the honour to remain, Mrs. Dowle and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. MILTON JONES,

M.B., Ch.B.



## SECTION "A."

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of the District—163,477 Acres.

Registrar General's estimate of Population for year 1946—  
10,490.

Population (1931 Census)—11,487.

Number of Inhabited Houses—2,855.

Rateable Value—£54,896.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£228 4s. 8d.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1946.

			<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
<b>Live Births</b>	{ Legitimate	...	77	64	141	} 160
	{ Illegitimate	...	10	9	19	

Birth Rate per thousand of the estimated population—15·25.

			<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
<b>Still Births</b>	{ Legitimate	...	2	Nil	2	} 4
	{ Illegitimate	...	2	Nil	2	

Still Birth Rate per thousand of the estimated population—·38.

**Deaths.** Males—73; Females—74; Total—147.

Death Rate per thousand of the estimated population—13·1.

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child birth:

From Sepsis—Nil; From other causes—Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate per thousand Total Births—Nil.

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—

				<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	2	5	} 6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	Nil	1	

*Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—*

All Infants per thousand Live Births—37·5.

Legitimate Infants per thousand Live Births—31·2.

Illegitimate Infants per thousand Live Births—6·3.

Deaths from Cancer—

Male—10 ; Female—13 ; Total—23.

Average age at death of those dying from Cancer—60·3 years.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)—2.

Total Deaths of Residents of the area who died in Hospitals,  
and Institutions—20.

Percentage (of total deaths) occurring in Hospitals, Institutions, etc.—13.6.

Average age at death (excluding deaths under one year of age)  
of all residents of the area whose deaths were allotted to  
the area—59·1 years.

Average age at death (excluding deaths under one year of age)  
of those who died in the area and whose deaths were  
allotted to the area—67·0.

Deaths from Tuberculosis—

Pulmonary      Male - 1;   Female - 2;   Total 3.

Non Pulmonary Male - Nil; Female - 1; Total 1.

Average age at death of those who died as the result of Tuberculosis (all forms)—35·7 years.

For purposes of comparison, Vital Statistics for England and Wales are given below:—

### Death Rate for England and Wales—11·5.

Birth Rate for England and Wales	{	Live Births—19·1.
		Still „ — 0·53.

Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales per thousand  
Total Births—1.43.

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales per thousand  
Live Births—43.

Still Birth Rate for England and Wales per thousand of the  
Estimated Population—·53.

## Maternal Mortality.

It is again gratifying to note that no deaths were reported as being attributable to Maternal causes.

## Infantile Mortality.

Six deaths of infants under one year of age were reported, and of these, four appear to have taken place in Hospital. Three of these deaths would appear to have been attributable to antenatal causes.

The following is the Registrar General's detailed list of the various causes of deaths, together with numbers and sex, allotted to the area during the year 1946 :—

			<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	—	1
Tuberculosis (of the Respiratory System)	...	...	1	2
„ (other forms)	...	...	—	1
Influenza	...	...	1	4
Cancer (all forms)	...	...	10	13
Diabetes	...	...	1	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions...	...	...	11	14
Heart Disease	...	...	15	12
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	...	1	—
Bronchitis	...	...	2	2
Pneumonia	...	...	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	1	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	1	—
Nephritis	...	...	1	4
Premature Birth	...	...	1	0
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, etc.	...	...	2	2
Violent Causes	...	...	4	2
Other Causes	...	...	18	11
			—	—
	Totals	...	73	74

Of these deaths 84 were 70 years and upwards, and of these, 42 were over 80 years, and 3 were 90 years or over.



The following Table summarizes the Vital Statistics of the District  
for the Years 1931—46.

Year	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Births (Live <i>and</i> Still),	
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Death Rate from Tub- erculosis	Death Rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate	Rate of Deaths under 1 year
1931	18.0	13.6	0.68	1.63	9.5	81
1932	20.1	14.4	0.43	1.88	8.5	51
1933	14.1	14.6	0.43	2.25	Nil	55
1934	15.7	13.8	0.53	2.28	5.37	100
1935	16.2	12.9	0.62	1.4	Nil	41.6
1936	14.1	13.1	0.54	1.8	5.7	53.8
1937	13.7	14.6	0.63	2.1	6.17	46.6
1938	15.05	12.65	.64	1.38	11.9	49.1
1939	16.4	14.65	.27	1.9	Nil	89.4
1940	11.8	16.7	.46	2.8	Nil	85.1
1941	14.3	15.09	.42	1.04	5.3	61.9
1942	15.3	15.1	.53	2.3	Nil	46.2
1943	17.1	11.9	.09	1.9	Nil	31.6
1944	17.3	14.1	.28	2.0	5.3	44.2
1945	18.52	13.53	.38	2.0	Nil	41.4
1946	15.25	13.1	.38	2.2	Nil	37.5

## SECTION "B."

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

No changes took place during the year and the general position is as detailed in the Annual Report for 1945.

## SECTION "C."

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### Water Supplies.

The Welsh Board of Health have suggested that the following information with regard to Water Supply should appear in this annual Report.

#### Quality.

It is necessary to distinguish between the public supplies operated by the Council and supplies obtained from private sources.

There are 8 piped water schemes administered by the Council, and in each case the quality of the water supplied is good. Ten samples were submitted to bacteriological examination during the year, and all but one were found to be satisfactory. One sample from each of the eight schemes was submitted for Chemical Analyses and all were satisfactory.

Generally speaking the privately owned supplies fall far below the quality of the public supplies, and it is doubtful whether more than 50 per cent. of the privately owned supplies are satisfactory in quality.

#### Quantity.

The position is as stated in my Annual Report for 1945.

#### Samples Taken.

The following are the results of samples taken from the public mains and submitted for Bacteriological examination or Chemical Analyses :—

1.	Number of samples of untreated water submitted for Bacteriological examination	...	...	4
2.	Number found satisfactory	...	...	3
3.	Number of samples of treated water submitted for Bacteriological examination	...	...	6
4.	Number found satisfactory	...	...	6
5.	Number of samples of treated water submitted for Chemical examination	...	...	3
6.	Number found satisfactory	...	...	3
7.	Number of samples of untreated water submitted for Chemical examination	...	...	5
8.	Number found satisfactory	...	...	5

## **Plumbo-Solvent Action.**

I would not expect any of the public piped water supplies to have a marked aggressive action on metals. In two cases the water is passed through a contact chamber of limestone chippings to counteract any acidity in the water, and the chemical analyses are satisfactory.

## **Contamination.**

No action has been necessary in respect of any forms of contamination of the piped water supplies.

## **Proportion of Houses with Public Supply.**

From the details given in my report for 1943 it will be seen that all the bigger villages have piped water supplies available, but in a scattered rural area such as this, it has not yet been possible to bring piped water supplies within the reach of the majority of the houses. The total number of occupied houses in the district may be taken at 2855; yet the total number of houses with water laid on from piped schemes (including eight schemes operated by the Council, and three otherwise controlled) is only 337. It may be pointed out however, that the public have not yet taken full advantage of the facilities offered to them. The eight schemes operated by the Council bring water within reach of 575 houses, but only 204 of these have water laid on into the houses.

## **Drainage and Sewerage.**

I can only repeat the observations on this subject made in my annual Report for 1944, and express the hope that it will be found possible to proceed with sewerage schemes in the near future.

## **Closet Accommodation.**

No change.

## **Public Cleansing.**

The circumstances are substantially the same as indicated in my Annual Report for 1942. I must add however, that complaints from the public continue to increase, and it appears to me that the Council will be obliged to consider the question of doing the work by direct labour unless the scavenging contractor can do the work better than at present.



## Sanitary Inspections.

The following Table shows the results of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:—

Number of Informal Notices served ... ..	67
Number of Informal Notices complied with ... ..	56
Number of Statutory Notices served ... ..	1
Number of Statutory Notices complied with ... ..	Nil
Number of Houses found to be totally unfit for human habitation ... ..	1
Number of Food Condemnation Certificates issued ...	15

Quantity of Food condemned:—

Beef ... 23 lbs.	Pork ... 270½ lbs.
Canned Meat 72½ lbs.	Other Foods 54½ lbs.
145 Tins of Household Machine Skimmed Milk (each tin equivalent to four pints of Skimmed Milk).	
6 Tins of Fynnon Salts.	

## Milk and Dairies Regulations.

There are now 519 registered milk producers in the area.

During the year 54 applications for registration were made. The total number of applications granted was 39, several of these having been submitted during the previous year.

In most cases improvements to dairy premises were required upon registration, and the following Table shows the defects remedied during the year, in premises which were registered for milk production:—

Defective Ceilings ... ..	25
Defective Floors ... ..	83
Insufficient Light and Ventilation ... ..	68
Want of Lime Washing ... ..	65
Defective Drainage ... ..	60
Want of Cooler ... ..	53
Want of Milk Room ... ..	58
Other Defects .. ... ..	117

## Shops and Offices.

No action taken during the year.

## Camping Sites.

There are no licensed Camping Sites in the district.



## Smoke Abatement.

No action necessary.

## Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the district.

## Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action necessary.

## Housing.

At the end of the year there were 10 recorded cases of overcrowding in the district. There is no doubt however, that if another survey were made, many additional cases would be revealed.

It will be noted that one house has been found totally unfit for human habitation. This figure is, of course, in addition to those reported to the Council in previous years. The total number of houses in the district which have been reported to the Council as entirely unfit for human habitation and not yet dealt with is 82.

## Schools.

There were no school closures during the year as a result of Infectious Diseases.

Measles was epidemic—mainly amongst school children—during the latter months of the year, and a few cases of Scarlet Fever, also mainly amongst those of school age, were notified. This latter condition does not appear to have been severe, and experience of this disease would tend to indicate that its toxicity is much less than it was many years ago.

The system of school meals is now very general and well established, and children enjoy the meals and social atmosphere in which the latter are partaken. General health of the children appears to be good.

With the diminishing child population in the more sparsely populated districts, successive small country schools are being closed, and the children are conveyed by bus to the larger centres of population.

In view of increasing congestion in the remaining schools and the long journeys in crowded motor transport it is probable that future epidemics will be more widespread.

Before the closure of the small schools epidemics amongst children tended to be confined to the area from which the children came.

The routine examination of children continues to be carried out by the County Medical Officer and his Staff, who also have undertaken to carry out the Immunisation of children against Diphtheria, with the result that a very high percentage of the young are now protected against this latter disease.

## **Section "F."**

### **Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.**

During the year under review 267 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, and, of these, 6 were cases of Tuberculosis. In respect of Measles, 224 cases were notified

As these figures indicate, Measles was epidemic during the latter months of the year and was generally distributed throughout the area and throughout the various age groups.

The prevailing type of infection appeared to be moderately severe with the usual complications. It is gratifying to note that no deaths were reported as being due to this disease.

As is usually the case during Measles epidemics, no effort appears to be made to carry out segregation and isolation, and the fallacious belief, still very widely held, in the inevitability of the young children contracting the infection, tends to create an atmosphere of indifference during these epidemics. It is well to emphasize that the disease of Measles can be followed, and very often is, by unpleasant, and sometimes tragic complications. Patients should therefore be supervised closely throughout the illness and for some time afterwards.

Scarlet Fever accounted for 12 of the above notifications, and it is gratifying to note that no deaths were due to this disease.

21 cases of Pneumonia were notified and 5 deaths were reported as being due to this disease.

2 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year. Both cases were treated at home and recovery was complete.

It is gratifying to note that no cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Immunisation of children against Diphtheria now appears to have become an established practice, and the majority of those in charge of children are ready and desirous to co-operate in this very necessary and beneficial branch of protective medicine. Should there be any children who have not received their protective injections against Diphtheria, guardians of such children are again urged to rectify this deficiency without delay. As previously indicated, the County Medical Officer and his Staff and local



practioners are always ready to afford to children the necessary injections against this disease.

Scabies appears, to all intents and purposes, to have disappeared from the district. No cases have been observed for a considerable period.

Notification of Infectious Diseases appears to have been satisfactory during the year.

No vaccinations or re-vaccinations were carried out during the year under the Public Health (Small Pox) Regulations.

No Immunisation against Scarlet Fever was carried out during the year.

Disinfection of infected premises continues to be carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors when and where necessary in an effort to control the spread of infectious diseases.

Your Inspectors also give advice and guidance to contacts in the matters of isolation, hygiene, and preventive methods which can be adopted to localize the spread of infectious diseases.

The following Tables give an analysis of the Infectious Diseases required to be notified and in respect of which notifications were received during the year (Tuberculosis excepted).

Diseases.	Number of Cases Notified.		Admissions to Hospital.		Deaths.	
Scarlet Fever	...	12	...	—	...	—
Pneumonia ...	...	21	...	—	...	3
Measles ...	...	224	...	—	...	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	2	...	—	...	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	2	...	—	...	—
TOTAL	...	261	...	—	...	3

### Age Incidence of cases of Infectious Diseases Notified.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65+	Total.
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	1	1	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	12
Pneumonia	2	1	—	2	1	4	2	1	2	3	—	3	21
Measles ...	4	5	9	7	22	88	41	16	19	10	—	—	224
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Totals ...	8	6	10	12	24	98	49	17	21	13	—	3	261

## Tuberculosis.

During the year under review no action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations (1925) or under Section 2 of the Public Health Act of 1925.

During the year 6 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, and of these 3 were males and 3 were females. All of those notified were suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The average age at date of notification was :

Males, 31·3 years ; Females, 24 years.

Particulars of the deaths, due to Tuberculosis, of 3 persons were received during the year.

Two of these deaths (one male aged 55 years and one female aged 22 years) were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The third death was that of a female, aged 30 years, due to acute Miliary Tuberculosis.

In the lists received from the Registrar General the death of one female is included as being due to "Tuberculosis (other forms)."

After some research it has not been possible to find particulars of this death. The following details of age etc. are therefore based upon the "particulars of deaths" in the possession of your Medical Officer of Health, and which include the above noted 3 deaths.

Average age at death of those who died as a result of Tuberculosis was 35·6 years.

The death-rate from Tuberculosis (all forms) for the year 1946 would therefore be ·28 per thousand of the population.

### Classification of New Cases of Tuberculosis (all forms) and Deaths from this Disease according to Age, Sex, and type:—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Years.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
1—5	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
5—10	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
10—15	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
15—20	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
20—25	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	—
25—35	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	—
35—45	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—
45—65	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—
65+	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Totals	...	3	3	—	1	2	—	—



Notification of cases of Tuberculosis in the area appears to be good, and all cases—notifications and deaths—had been reported to the Tuberculosis Physician. The services of the latter continue to be much appreciated, and his help, advice and assistance increasingly sought.

The Public, generally, are now more alert and more anxious to co-operate and tend to seek advice earlier, and are much more ready and willing to undergo the requisite investigations.

The Staff of the Organisation are always ready to help in every way to meet the increasing numbers of patients who are sent forward for investigation but, unfortunately, the continued lack of Hospital accommodation seriously hampers the work.

The usual disinfection of infected premises is carried out when and where necessary by your Inspectors, who also give advice as to the destruction of infected clothing.

## **Laboratory Work and Facilities.**

No changes to report.

## **Prevention of Blindness.**

No action taken.

No change in existing organizations, Hospitals or methods of supervision.

## **Cancer.**

This disease caused the death of 23 persons during the year. 10 of these were males, and 13 were females.

The average age at death would appear to be 60·3 years and ages at death ranged from 41 years to 87 years.

Early investigation of vague symptoms still appears to be the best method to attempt to combat this disease, which, as is evident from the age incidence, concentrates its attacks upon those advancing in years.





